AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A file management device for managing, with an index file recorded in a recording medium, and a file recorded in the recording medium,

wherein the index file includes a series of entries comprising, in block, information extracted from a file recorded in the recording medium, information extracted from a file correlated to a folder set in the recording medium, and information extracted from the folder, and indicates layer structures of the file and the folder by layer information pointing to other entries set in the entry;

wherein an entry of the folder indicates the files belonging to the folder by registration information pointing to other entries, and indicates, by the identifying information, whether or not the corresponding folder is a virtual folder; and

wherein the file management device retrieves an entry of the index file according to conditions for retrieval set by a user to select a file registered in the index file, and sets the registration information in an entry of the virtual folder so that an entry corresponding to the selected file is indicated.

2. (Currently Amended) A file managing method of managing a file recorded in a recording medium with an index file recorded in the recording medium,

wherein the index file includes a series of entries comprising, in block, information extracted from a file recorded in the recording medium, information extracted from a file correlated to a folder set in the recording medium, and information extracted from the folder, and indicates layer structures of the file and the folder by layer information pointing to other entries set in the entry; and

wherein an entry of the folder indicates the files belonging to the folder by registration information pointing to other entries, and indicates, by the identifying information, whether or not the corresponding folder is a virtual folder;

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said method comprising:

a step of retrieving entries of the index file according to retrieval conditions set by a user to select a file registered in the index file; and

a step of registering registration information pointing to an entry corresponding to the file selected in the retrieving step and the retrieval conditions in an entry of the virtual folder.

3. (Original) The file managing method according to claim 2, wherein retrieval of an entry of the index file in the retrieving step is performed by refining entries relating to files to be retrieved based on registration information registered in the virtual folder.

4. (Currently Amended) A program for executing a file managing method of managing a file recorded in a recording medium with an index file recorded in the recording medium by making a computer execute a prespecified processing sequence,

wherein the index file includes a series of entries comprising, in block, information extracted from a file recorded in the recording medium, information extracted from a file correlated to a folder set in the recording medium, and information extracted from the folder, and indicates layer structures of the file and the folder by layer information pointing to other entries set in the entry; and

wherein an entry of the folder indicates the files belonging to the folder by registration information pointing to other entries, and indicates, by the identifying information, whether or not the corresponding folder is a virtual folder;

said processing sequence comprising:

a step of retrieving entries of the index file according to retrieval condition set by a user to select a file registered in the index file; and

a step of registering registration information pointing an entry corresponding to the file selected in the retrieving step and the retrieval conditions in an entry of the virtual folder.

5. (Currently Amended) A recording medium for recording therein a program for executing a file managing method of managing a file recorded in a recording medium with an index file recorded in the recording medium by making a computer execute a prespecified processing sequence,

wherein the index file includes a series of entries comprising, in block, information extracted from a file recorded in the recording medium, information extracted from a file correlated to a folder set in the recording medium, and information extracted from the folder, and indicates layer structures of the file and the folder by layer information pointing to other entries set in the entry;

wherein an entry of the folder ~~incieates~~indicates the files belonging to the folder by registration information pointing to other entries, and indicates, by the identifying information, whether or not the corresponding folder is a virtual folder is indicated;

said prespecified processing sequence comprising:

a step of retrieving entries of the index file according to retrieval condition set by a user to select a file registered in the index file; and

a step of registering registration information pointing an entry corresponding to the file selected in the retrieving step and the retrieval conditions in an entry of the virtual folder.